

Evidence for Home Visiting Programs to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence and related Health Disparities

Linda Bullock, PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor

University of Missouri

Sinclair School of Nursing

lbullock@missouri.edu

Acknowledgement of Funding Sources

- **Baby BEEP** – Nursing Smoking Cessation Intervention during Pregnancy (R01 NR05313) Bullock, L., PI
- **Baby BEEP for Kids** – Nursing support: Better Infant Outcomes in Violent Homes (R01 HD045542) Bullock, L., PI
- **DOVE** – Domestic Violence Enhancement Home Visitation program (R01 NR009093) Sharps, P., PI; Bullock, L. MO site PI



Points to Remember

- If intimate partner violence (IPV) is present during pregnancy and not addressed by the Home Visitor – maternal/child outcomes are not as good
- IPV is more common during pregnancy than many health problems screened for and impacts the health of mother and baby
- We know what an effective Home Visiting IPV intervention looks like: **DOVE**
- Decreasing childhood exposure can impact children's development and school readiness

Prenatal Home Visiting Programs

- Recent research has shown that HV programs may not be as effective if IPV is occurring and not addressed¹
 - Current HV'ing programs usually do not include a formal IPV protocol (e.g. Family Nurse Partnership, Parents as Teachers etc.)
- HV programs have reduced poor pregnancy outcomes, improved parenting skills and improved child development²
 - Education and support main ingredients of intervention

EXAMPLE OF SUPPORT

“I would say the entire situation, collaborative of shelter, home visitor, DOVE, talking about all of these issues and all of them intertwined together has helped me parent differently....” (27-yr old, separated, woman, Dove study)

“I think that, the support was the biggest thing when dealing with, you know, the problem about it.” (22 yr old rural married woman, DOVE study)

¹Eckenrode, J. et al. (2000). JAMA,284(11), 1385-1391.

²Chalk, R., & King, PA (1998). E.Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention and Treatment Programs. Washington DC: Academic Press

Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy

- Incidence of IPV during pregnancy is between 4 – 8% or 156,00 to 332,000 women/year¹
- 34% of the women in the Baby BEEP study were abused the year before and/or during pregnancy
- Abuse during pregnancy increases the risk of the women being murdered by her intimate partner 3-fold²

WOMEN FEEL ISOLATED AND DO NOT TALK TO ANYONE

“... when I first started this I just wanted to talk to somebody. And I made, and I knew that you’re confidential. I just wanted to tell somebody how I was feeling. ... You guys kept really giving me a lot of advice, but I mean, you make me feel like I wasn’t by myself anymore....” (24 yr old, rural, married woman, DOVE study)

... “(the study) made me realize how dangerous a situation I was in and how much worse it really was than I even realized. I knew it was a bad situation, but never realized it was that bad or how many different types of abuse I had experienced.” (27 yr old, rural, separated woman, DOVE study)

¹Gazmarian J.A. (2000). Maternal Child Health J. 4(2), 79-84.

²McFarlane, J. et al. (2002). Obstet Gynecol, 100 (1), 27-36.

Health Effects of IPV during Pregnancy

Associated with poor outcomes

- Unsafe sex practices/unplanned pregnancy
- Late entry into prenatal care
- Poor weight gain
- Placental abruption/uterine rupture/infections
- Increased substance abuse
- Mental Health issues – depression, anxiety and PTSD

¹ Coker, A.L. et al, (2000). Arch Fam Med, 9, 451-457.

Health Effects for Infants whose Mothers are Abused

Most consistent evidence of IPV on fetus:

- Low Birth weight^{1,2}
- Preterm delivery³
- Infant Mortality³

¹Bullock, L., & McFarlane, J. (1989). *Am J. of Nursing*, 89(9), 1153-1155.

²Boy, A., & Salihu, H. (2004). *Int J. Fertil Womens Med.* 49 (4), 159-164.

³Mathews, T., & MacDorman, M. (2007). *National Vital Statistics Reports* (Vol.55).

Domestic Violence Enhanced Home Visitation Program (DOVE)

- **PURPOSE:** To test an empowerment intervention during pregnancy and immediately post-delivery to reduce IPV in rural and urban prenatal home visitation programs and in the NFP program.
- **WHAT IS DOVE:** The DOVE intervention is a highly-structured nurse-administered domestic violence home visitation program, designed to educate mothers and reduce their overall risk for violence during pregnancy and post-partum. It is being tested using home visitors in Missouri (rural) and Baltimore (urban)

DOVE IPV Intervention: Evidence-based

- Dutton's Empowerment model ¹
 - Protection, a focus on increasing women's safety
 - Enhanced choice making and problem solving
- Parker and McFarlane 10-minute intervention²
 - Structured, brochure-based intervention
 - Flexible and can be implemented in different programs
 - Cycle of Violence
 - Risk factors for women and infants
 - Options (leaving, using shelter, accessing resources)

¹Dutton MA. Empowering and healing the battered women. New York: Springer; 1992.

²Parker B, McFarlane J, et al. (1999). Research in Nursing & Health. 22:59-66.

Lessons Learned about Implementing DOVE

- Preparation for the DOVE Study: The Town (Home Visitors) and Gown (Research team) Partnership
 - The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MoDHSS) extremely supportive of identifying IPV and working with the research team
 - Team conducted 5 different workshops regarding screening for IPV with the home visitors over a two-year period
 - Team continues to make frequent visits to the DOVE sites and goes over the research protocol with trained HVs and new staff

ISSUES WITH HOME VISITORS

- Challenges of delivering DOVE intervention¹
 - Many of the MO Home Visitors lacked educational preparation – Baltimore nurses part of research team
 - MO HVs had a lack of understanding of the importance of screening for intimate partner violence
 - Home visitors own experience with IPV

- TAKE HOME MESSAGE!

TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING

Eddy, T., Kilburn, E. et al., (2008). Nursing Clinics of North America, 43(3), 419-435.

Important Findings: Baby BEEP for Kids and DOVE studies

- Research has shown exposure can cause lower cognitive functioning, limited problem solving and risk taking behavior
 - May be seeing these problems in Baby BEEP for Kids and DOVE women
 - Poor relationship with their own mothers
 - Also seeing:
 - Increased perinatal mortality
 - Increased health care utilization
 - Poor verbal skills at 2 years of age

HOME VISITING MUST INCLUDE THE VERY YOUNG CHILDREN!

